



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH, 2020 MORNING MESSAGE

TRANSITIONAL PASTOR TED LAND

BRADENTON, FLORIDA

Greetings in Christ Jesus!

Did you have red hair when you were younger? Did you, like Charlie Brown, have a crush on a little girl with red hair when you were a child? Did you ever dye your hair red?

Did you ever see a redheaded angel?

More than a dozen years ago, I began to encounter what I have come to recognize as “redheaded angels.” An angel is a messenger from God. I began to experience a significant number of encounters with red-haired children with angelic faces in a variety of places. This Sunday’s sermon is entitled *Redheaded Angels* and tells the stories of some of those encounters.

The text for the sermon is Hebrews 13:2: “Be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” (King James Version) I copied that text from one of my priceless treasures is a slim little book, *Angel Unaware*, which sold brand new for \$1 in 1953. It was my mother’s book. It was written by Dale Evans Rogers. It tells the story of her daughter, Robin, who was born with Down Syndrome, who lived two days short of two years. I have tears in my eyes as I type these words. I cry every time I read the book, and the introduction by Norman Vincent Peale. If you haven’t read the book, or heard the story, I encourage you to do so. I can’t read or tell it to you. I get too choked up and teary eyed.

Roy Rogers, Dale Evans, Trigger, Norman Vincent Peale, were frequent guests in our

home during the 1950's. They came through the then-new wonder of television.

Thirty years later, I met Wilson and Joanna Mathis, who had been a part of Roy Rogers traveling Wild West Show for a few years. Wilson and Joanna were in the wedding pictures the day that Dale became Mrs. Rogers. One of the treasures Wilson, who called himself my "adopted daddy" left me is a saddle that he used to exercise Trigger when they were a part of the Double-R-Bar Ranch Show.

I think my mother taught me to be aware of angels. For messengers from God in unlikely places. Without wings or haloes.

In a few weeks I'll begin a new series of sermons, on the theme The Angels of Advent.

Be on the lookout for angels. Especially those with red hair.

Your Transitional Pastor,

Ted Land